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Bootle Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural District Council.

April, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,—

By direction of the Minister of Health, my Annual Report for 1925 is to be a Survey Report, which will make it longer than usual.

The area of your district is 92,322 acres. Population, 1921, 6059; estimated 1925, 5985. The physical features vary very much: high mountains on the eastern boundary, sea coast on the western, with plains and valleys in between, and rapidly running rivers, whose course is from east to west.

The Number of Inhabited Houses in 1921 was 1249.

The Number of Families or Separate Occupiers was 1324.

Rateable Value of District, £53,015.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate, £221 7*1*—.

The Social Conditions are various. Agriculture is the chief occupation. There are some small commercial undertakings in the shape of granite quarries, and on the sea coast there is a trade in summer visitors.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate—16.4—is higher than last year, but below the rate for England and Wales—18.8.

The Death Rate—9.02—is lower than last year, and below the rate for England and Wales—12.2.

The Infant Death Rate—50.5—is lower than last year, and below the rate for England and Wales—75.

The Amount of Poor-Law Relief. — The approximate amount given from April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926, is estimated at £806. There has been no specially noteworthy cause of sickness in the area during the last five years, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

Hospitals, &c.—The Millom & Bootle Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases, situated in Millom, just outside the area of the Rural District, is partly supported by the Urban Council of Millom and partly by the Rural District Council. Total available beds, 44.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the Area is provided by the Poor-Law Institution at Bootle.

Ambulance Facilities:—

- (a) is provided for infectious cases.
- (b) is not provided for other cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centre.—There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Millom which is available for the population of the Rural District, provided by the County Council, and also a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority. — One part-time Medical Officer of Health, and one whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor to the District; he holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also Special Certificate for Meat Inspection, Building Construction and Plumbing.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

- (a) There are three District Nurses, who cover a large part of the district; they are qualified midwives, and are provided and supported by voluntary subscriptions.
- (b) Infectious Diseases are almost invariably sent to Hospital.

Midwives.—There are no midwives employed or subsidised by the Rural District Council.

Chemical Work, when required, is done by the County Analyst, and the result is satisfactory.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Local Acts.—The Barrow-in-Furness Corporation and the Millom Urban District Council have Local Water Acts which affect certain portions of the district.

Special Local Orders:—

- (1) Order which came into force on the 2nd January, 1893, investing the Guardians of the Poor, as the Rural Sanitary Authority for the Rural District of Bootle, with urban powers in the parishes of Bootle, Drigg & Carleton, Eskdale & Wasdale, Millom Rural, Muncaster and Whicham as to slaughter houses.
- (2) Order which came into force 30th May, 1893, investing the Guardians, as the Rural Sanitary Authority, as aforesaid, with urban

powers to make Bye-Laws respecting new buildings, &c.

- (3) Order which came into force 14th March, 1894, investing the Guardians, as the Rural Sanitary Authority, as aforesaid, with urban powers under Sect. 44 of Public Health Act, 1875, to collect house refuse, &c.
- (4) Bootle (Urban Powers) Order, 1924, which came into force on 22nd January, 1924, empowering the Council to make Regulations respecting the use of hackney carriages and omnibuses in the Parish of Seaside.

Bye-Laws are in progress of being made thereunder.

- (5) Bootle (Urban Powers) No. 2 Order, 1924, which came into force on October 20th, 1924. Sanitary conveniences for public accommodation in the Parishes of Seaside and Whicham. The powers granted are being satisfactorily used.
- (6) Bootle Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1925, which came into force on December 10th, 1925, whereby the provisions of Sub-Sect. (3) Sect. 18 of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, shall be in force in the contributory place of Eskdale & Wasdale. There has been no necessity so far to act under the powers granted.

Bye-Laws:—

- (1) Bye-laws as to Common Lodging Houses in the district confirmed by the Local Government Board on November 7th, 1894.
- (2) Bye-laws as to Slaughter Houses confirmed by the Local Government Board on November 7th, 1894.
- (3) Byelaws as to the Prevention of Nuisances confirmed by the Local Government Board on November 7th, 1894.
- (4) Bye-laws as to New Streets and New Buildings confirmed by the Ministry of Health on 13th January, 1908, with amendments confirmed by the Ministry on the 20th August, 1923.
- (5) Bye-laws as to the Seashore in the contributory places of Seaside and Whicham confirmed by the Secretary of State 10th June, 1913, and

consented to by the Board of Trade on 18th June, 1913.

The Bye-Laws are, generally speaking, very satisfactorily observed.

Infectious Diseases.—The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, has been adopted.

Water Supply.—The district is well supplied by various schemes of good, pure water, all upon the gravitation principle. The supply is constant, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight. The principal supplies are provided from the Devoke Water scheme, springs on Bootle Fell, the Millom Urban District Council, and private schemes in Muncaster and Eskdale.

The greater part of the district is well supplied with one or other of these schemes. With regard to the farms in the mountain districts, which get their supply from rapidly running mountain streams and wells adjoining the houses, the supply is generally ample, except in an occasional dry summer. Some parts of Eskdale Green are well supplied, but other parts are not.

Rivers and Streams.—The pollution is nominal.

Drainage and Sewerage are satisfactory in those parts of the district where a drainage system exists. The other parts have to make the best of it.

Closet Accommodation.—Wherever possible a policy of substituting water closets for privies is adopted.

Scavenging.—In two parishes the scavenging is done by contract under the Parochial Sanitary Committee. In other parishes it is done by private enterprise.

Smoke Abatement is not necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations are 41. These are regularly visited during the year.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of Schools is good. The action taken in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease is very much the same as recommended by the Memorandum on Closure or Exclusion from School, 1925.

HOUSING.

(1) **General Housing Conditions in the Area.**—

(i) General housing conditions for the most part good, though there are some very old houses.

(ii) There is no appreciable shortage or excess of houses.

(2) **Overcrowding** does not exist.

(3) **Fitness of Houses.**—

(i) The general standard of housing in the area is good.

(ii) The general character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses are dampness due to defective roofs or leaky gutter spouts ; or want of ventilation due to windows that do not open sufficiently.

(iii) The defects are due in many cases to the oldness of the structures.

(iv) General action taken as regards unfit houses. The owners are required to remedy the defects, and this is generally done ; in an exceptional case the house is closed.

(v) When the conditions as regards water allow of improving the supply this is done, and, where possible, W.C.'s are substituted for closets.

(4) **Unhealthy Areas** do not exist.

(5) **Bye-Laws relating to Houses, &c.:**—

(i) Existing Bye-laws work well.

(ii) At present there is no need for new Bye-laws, or revision of existing Bye-laws.

(6) **General and Miscellaneous.**—Any action taken under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts is included in a separate report by the Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply** is ample, and is all produced within the area ; the Dairies are well kept.

(b) **Meat.**—There are four Slaughter-houses in the area, and these are regularly inspected ; very occasionally a diseased animal is found, and after being condemned by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, is buried under supervision.

(c) **Other Foods.**—No unsound food has been found ; the bakehouses are well kept.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The average number notified during the period since 1920 is 14 per annum. The supply of diphtheria antitoxin can be, and is, obtained promptly.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined by the Clinical Research Association, or other similar bodies when required.

Dick & Schick

It is difficult to say how far the methods are used, as the number of cases is small, but they have been used occasionally. School intimations of non-notifiable acute infectious diseases are few, and generally deal with cases of Mumps and Chickenpox. (See Table attached).

The mortality from Influenza since 1920 has been very low, and chiefly concerned with old people. There are no statistics; in consequence, no action has been taken.

The incidence of Cancer has probably received attention from every practitioner in the district.

Verminous children are dealt with by the District and School Nurses.

Premises and articles which have been exposed to infection are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis employees are prohibited in the Milk Trade. No action has been taken under (b), (c), or (d). The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient.

I append Tables of Statistics, and am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H., Bootle R.D.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of District during 1925.

| Population Estimated | Births. | | Net Deaths belonging to the District. | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| | Number. | Rate. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | Rate |
| | | | Number. | Rate per 1000 Net Births. | |
| 5985. | 99·02 | 16·4 | 5 | 50·5 | 9·02 |

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1925.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| SCARLET FEVER | 6 | 5 sent to Hospital. |
| DIPHTHERIA | 5 | 4 do. do. |
| TUBERCULOSIS--LUNGS | 2 | |
| OTHER FORMS..... | 1 | |
| PNEUMONIA..... | 7 | |

Area of district, 92,322 acres. Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,255; at No. of Occupiers, 1,324. Isolation Hospital—Millom and Bootle Joint Hospital. Total available beds, 44.

TABLE III.—Causes of Death in Bootle Rural District, 1925.

| Causes of Death. | | | | Males. | Females. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|
| (Civilians Only). | | | | | |
| ALL CAUSES. | | | | 22 | 32 |
| 1 Enteric Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 2 Small Pox ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 3 Measles... ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 4 Scarlet Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 5 Whooping Cough ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 6 Diphtheria ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| 7 Influenza ... | ... | ... | ... | | 2 |
| 8 Encephalitis lethargica ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 9 Meningococcal meningitis ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... | ... | ... | | | 2 |
| 11 Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 12 Cancer, malignant disease ... | ... | ... | | 4 | 4 |
| 13 Rheumatic Fever ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 14 Diabetes ... | ... | ... | | | 3 |
| 15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. ... | ... | ... | | 2 | 5 |
| 16 Heart Disease ... | ... | ... | | 1 | 5 |
| 17 Arterio-sclerosis ... | ... | ... | | | 2 |
| 18 Bronchitis ... | ... | ... | | 2 | 2 |
| 19 Pneumonia (all forms)... | ... | ... | | | 2 |
| 20 Other Respiratory Diseases ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 22 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 23 Appendicitis and Typhilitis ... | ... | ... | | | 1 |
| 24 Cirrhosis of Liver ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 25 Acute and chronic nephritis ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 26 Puerperal Sepsis ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ... | ... | ... | | 4 | |
| 29 Suicide ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 30 Other deaths from violence ... | ... | ... | | | |
| 31 Other defined diseases ... | ... | ... | | 7 | 2 |
| 32 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... | ... | ... | | 1 | 1 |
| Special Causes (included above) | | | | | |
| Poliomyelitis ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Polioencephalitis ... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ... | | | | | |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 |
| Illegitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL BIRTHS ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 | 52 |
| Legitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 | 47 |
| Illegitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 5 |
| POPULATION ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,985 | |

Table IV.—Infant Mortality.—1925.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

| Prematurity and Congenital Debility | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Rate per 1000 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---------|------------------|
| Pneumonia... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| | | | | Total 5 | 50·0 |

DEATHS:

Legitimate, 3; Illegitimate, 2.

Table V.

| TUBERCULOSIS 1925 | | New Cases † | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| Age Periods. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| I | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 5 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 10 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 15 | .. | .. | .. | I | | | | | |
| 20 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 25 | .. | .. | .. | I | | | | | |
| 35 | .. | .. | .. | I | | I | | | I |
| 45 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 55 | .. | .. | .. | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards.. | .. | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | .. | .. | I | 2 | | | | | I |

TABLE VI. [Copy of Table I. of Sanitary Inspector's Report].

| PARISH. | WATER SUPPLY. | | | SEWERAGE. | | | Other Matters Requiring Attention. |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | Source. | Sufficiency. | Quality. | Parts Severed. | Disposal. | Scavenging. | |
| Birkby and Austhwaite . | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Boatle | Springs on Fell. | Ample. | Good. | Main Street of Village. House round Station | Through Septic Tank Piped to Stream. | No public scheme. | (1) Extension of Water to farm and below Station. (2) Extension of Sewers round Bootle Station. (3) Collection of Refuse. |
| Corney | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Drigg and Carleton | Joint Scheme with Seascale. | Ample. | Good. | Nil. | | Nil. | |
| Eskdale and Wasdale | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | (1) Water Supply Eskdale (2) Question of Sewerage |
| Irton | Joint Scheme with Seascale. | Deficiency due to corroded pipes. | Good. | Nil. | | Nil. | Water Supply to Santon. |
| Millom Rural..... | Partly from Millom U.D.C. Partly from Springs. | Ditto. | Good. | Nil. | | By Contract. | (1) Water Supply to Lady Hall. (2) Sewer for The Hall. |
| Muncaster | Private scheme by Muncaster Estate. | Ample. | Good. | Main Street of Village. | To Stream. | Nil. | (1) Collection of Refuse (2) Public Conveniences for Trimmers. (3) Sanitary Accommodation to Public Hall. |
| Seascale | Joint Scheme with Drigg from Devoke. | Some difficulty during summer. | Good. | Practically the whole of Village. | Piped to low water. | By Contract (twice per week). | (1) Sewer for outside of Village. (2) Improvements to Water Supply. |
| Upholland | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Waberthwaite | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Water Supply for Newbiggin. |
| Whickham | Springs on Fell. | Ample. | Good. | Part of Silcroft Village. | Piped to stream. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Whitbeck | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |

MILLOM,

April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of your district for the year 1925.

The instruction of the Ministry of Health sets out that this report is to be a "Survey Report." It is therefore naturally of a very comprehensive character, and will probably contain many points upon which you are already conversant, but I have to bear in mind that the report is intended to convey an idea of the sanitary conditions of the district to the Ministry of Health and the County Council, to whom copies have to be forwarded.

Having acted in close co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health in the preparation of the first part of the Annual Report, I am confining myself to matters not dealt with so fully in that report.

Much of the information being required for each parish separately, I have set out much of the work in tabulated form.

I trust you will find the report of interest to you, and a benefit to the district.

My best thanks are due to the Council and to the Medical Officer of Health for the support I have received in the discharge of the duties of my office.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

W. BRITTON-JONES,

Sanitary Inspector to the Bootle R.D.C.

Water Supply.—I have set out in Table I. the details of the various public water supplies in the district, from which it will be seen the district is, generally speaking, extremely well supplied with various schemes of good, pure water all upon the "gravitation principle." These schemes all worked well throughout the year, notwithstanding the long dry spell during the summer.

The high standard of quality of the Drigg and Seascale water supply is still maintained, and although this supply is now drawn direct from the intake at Lingbeck in order to increase the pressure, difficulty was only experienced upon one occasion from chokage.

The difficulty of keeping the property upon the high levels at Seascale supplied during the visiting season is certainly increasing, and the cause is now being investigated by an Engineer.

It is regrettable the efforts made to provide the populous parts of Eskdale parish with a public water supply proved unsuccessful, as, during the summer, in particular, this parish was very badly off for water.

The water mains at "The Hill" are showing decided signs of considerable corrosion, and difficulty is being experienced to keep a full supply of water to property on the high levels; preparations are being made to scrape the pipes.

Rivers and Streams.—The rivers and streams in the district are of such a swift character that it would require very serious pollution to affect them to any appreciable extent. I am pleased to be in a position to report that nothing has been discovered during the year calling for attention, beyond the question of contaminated mussels just outside the Millom Urban District area, where it has been proved the mussels are so seriously polluted by the sewage from the Urban District as to warrant the prohibition of the fish for sale, and this question has been the subject of a special investigation by the Ministry of Health.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The various existing systems of sewers throughout the district have received constant attention, and continued to work well throughout the year, no complaints whatever being received. Some few years ago I designed a small Septic Tank, suitable for small installations, and sufficient time has now elapsed to warrant my saying these tanks have proved an unqualified success; they have proved a great boon to the inhabitants of our district, and have permitted the use quite generally of a system of Water Closets in place of the old objectionable privy; it is most gratifying to know the large number of these septic tanks which have been installed.

Details of sewerage are set out in Table I. of my report.

Private house drainage continues to form an important part of our work, something like 16 drains having been laid, renewed or repaired, and 9 cases of choked drains dealt with. I am pleased to say the same high standard of workmanship is still maintained; the smoke machine is of great assistance in maintaining this high standard, as all drainage is subject to the smoke test before being covered up.

houses *49* *6* *Priva* *G.* *4.*
Closet Accommodation.—Generally speaking, the closet accommodation of your district is sufficient; in very few cases has one convenience to be used by more than the occupier of one house. Whenever the sewerage system permits water closets are suggested, failing which dry earth closets are recommended.

~~As previously reported, I find that in some of the older parts of the district, and in certain isolated places, the objectionable pits are still in use, having an accumulation of filth of an extended period, and, generally speaking, these pits are without covering, and thus the rain and sun considerably add to the nuisance; these are gradually being reduced, some 21 new water closets having been put in during the year.~~

In one parish only, that of "The Hill," are arrangements made for the public removal of the contents of the privies; this is done by contract, and works fairly satisfactorily.

Scavenging.—The removal of house refuse from the private houses of Seascale, which is done by contract twice per week, continues to give satisfaction, no complaints having been received during the year. I feel it right to pay a tribute to the efficiency of the contractor, who carries out the work well. In this parish it is general to provide movable ashbins with proper coverings.

"The Hill" is the only other parish where any attempt is made to provide a system of scavenging, and while the question has been before other parishes from time to time, very little real progress is made.

I am fully convinced it is a question closely allied with the health of our villagers. The speedy and frequent removal of all filth and refuse from the surroundings of the dwellings of the people far more than justifies the expense this service may entail. It is not only in towns that scavenging is necessary, but also in our villages, where the opinion is too often held that this is a "fad" or an "expensive luxury." *J.C.*

So important is the question of scavenging considered by the Local Government Board that, in a letter dated 10th July, 1914, when sending out suggestions upon the precautions to be

made for the prevention of epidemic Diarrhœa, the following instructions appear: “ Domestic attempts at cleanliness may be “ rendered inoperative by conditions outside the house, and it is “ most important that these conditions should receive attention “ from the Council. Unpaved streets and court-yards should, “ where necessary, be paved, *and in particular* all accumula-“ tions of refuse in the neighbourhood of dwellings should be “ promptly and efficiently removed. These accumulations provide “ breeding grounds for flies, and are otherwise open to serious “ objection. It is, therefore, essential to the health of a district “ that there should be arrangements for the frequent removal of “ house, stable and street refuse, and the contents of privies and “ other closets on the conservancy system, and for the disposal “ of refuse and excrement under sanitary conditions,” etc., etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—In the ordinary course of routine work, something like 156 premises have been visited during the year (most premises require to be visited many times while remedial work is in progress), and 86 sanitary amendments made, the following being a summary:—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of Drains relaid or repaired | 16 |
| ,, Houses provided with new water supply | 7 |
| ,, New W.C.'s provided | 21 |
| ,, Refuse Receptacles provided | 3 |
| ,, Houses cleaned, disinfected or limewashed | 18 |
| ,, Houses found with defective ventilation under floors, and remedied | 4 |
| ,, Sundry nuisances abated | 17 |
| Total | 86 |

The Bye-Laws for regulating the foreshore at Seascale and Whicham continue to be of considerable advantage to the comfort of those using the seashores at these places. No infringement of the Bye-Laws was reported.

The question of providing some sanitary accommodation for day trippers at Muncaster will require serious consideration, as large numbers are now visiting this district, particularly upon Sundays, conveyed principally by motor charas; complaints are being made by the inhabitants of the nuisance caused by the trippers.

Schools.—The various public schools throughout the district are regularly visited, and the high state of cleanliness of the out-offices is maintained. In practically every case the sanitary accommodation in these schools is now either of the “ water closet ” or “ dry earth closet.”

There are large private preparatory schools for boys and girls at Seascale, where a very high standard of sanitation is maintained.

Housing.—A very detailed statement, showing the parishes separately, as required by the Ministry of Health, is set out in Table II., and deals fully with this subject, the Medical Officer of Health dealing with the general consideration.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk Supply.—Increased activity is noticed in milk production, several additional applications for registration having been received; these are practically all for wholesale production, the supply being sent to neighbouring towns. There are no milk shops in the area. What is consumed locally is usually carried direct from the farm to the consumer; the supply is abundant and wholesome.

The dairies are still conducted in the high state of cleanliness which I have so often had the pleasure of reporting to you. I feel I cannot pay too high a tribute to the care and cleanliness of the womenfolk of our district in this business.

The cowsheds are regularly inspected, and while some of the other buildings may leave much to be desired in the way of construction, there is a much better standard of cleanliness.

No licences have been granted (or applied for) under the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, and there are no pasteurisation plants in the area. Any questions of tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle are immediately notified to the County Veterinary Inspector.

Meat.—Increased importance is attached to the question of preparation of the meat supply of the district by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. Notice has now to be given of the slaughter of every animal, and while it is, of course, impossible to be present upon every occasion (as slaughtering frequently takes place in two or more slaughter-houses at the same time), this has naturally meant a large increase in the work of our department. The Regulations appear to leave a lot to be desired, particularly as to the interpretation intended for dealing with shops, vans, etc.

I would draw attention to a point which appears to have missed attention in these Regulations. I refer to rabbits. Large quantities of rabbits are caught and prepared for human consumption, being mainly despatched by railway to the larger Midland towns. I am strongly of the opinion this question needs greater attention, particularly in view of the magnitude of this business, as the mode of handling leaves much to be desired.

After being caught the rabbits are opened (pawnched), bundled together, taken to the various railway stations (frequently in carts recently used for carting manure), where they are dumped on the railway platforms, thence into the guard's van, out again on to railway platforms at the destinations. Considering the rabbits are opened, and travel among a cargo of general nature (fish, etc.), and no attempt is made to protect or cover them, it will readily be seen how liable they are to contamination. I most strongly consider this article of food should be brought within the same meat regulation.

The following tabulated form is referring to slaughter-houses included by instruction of the Ministry of Health :—

| | In 1920. | In Jan., 1925. | In Dec., 1925. |
|------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Registered | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Licensed | — | — | — |
| Totals | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Other Foods.—No necessity has arisen for seizure of an unwholesome food during the year, and no cases of poisoning from food have been dealt with.

Food & Drugs Act.—In this district the Food & Drugs Act is administered by the Police.

Disinfection.—The number of infectious cases notified during the year were 11, four of which were of Tuberculosis.

This branch of our work entails a considerable amount of labour, as it will be readily realised ; unless the work is carried out very thoroughly it is of no avail. The work of disinfecting in cases of tuberculosis has very materially increased in this department, as this is carried out periodically.

In all cases of infectious diseases, disinfectants are supplied, and when the patients have recovered, or have been removed to the Isolation Hospital (as the case might be), the premises are thoroughly disinfected, and instructions given as to cleansing, etc.

The Council are well supplied with disinfecting apparatus, having the " Invicta " spraying (under pressure) machine, " Alformant Lamps," and " Sharratt's Formaldehyde Fumigators." There is also a Steam Disinfector at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

Factory & Workshops Act.—The conditions of the various workplaces within our district remain very stationary. There has been a large extension to one of our workshops, and in four cases attention was called to the necessity of lime-washing, and the work was carried out immediately. 88 inspections were made during the year.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging-Houses.—There are no common lodging-houses in the district.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act.—There is a general desire to carry out the requirements of this Act (which came into operation upon the 1st January, 1920), and I have had many enquiries upon this question. The County Council provide supplies of poison, which are distributed through me, free of cost. A considerable quantity of this poison is applied for, and has proved efficacious where used. It should be remembered the obligation is upon the public to make certain their premises are free of these vermin, and that there are heavy penalties for failing to comply with the Act.

W. BRITTON-JONES.

TABLE I.

| PARISH. | WATER SUPPLY. | | | SEWERAGE. | | | Other Matters Requiring Attention. |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | Source. | Sufficiency. | Quality. | Parts Sewered. | Disposal. | Scavenging. | |
| Birker and Austhwaite .. | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Baethle | Springs on Fell. | Ample. | Good. | Main Street of Village. House round Station. | Through Septic Tank Piped to Stream. | No public scheme. | (1) Extension of Water to Farm and below Station. (2) Extension of Sewers round Bootle Station. (3) Collection of Refuse. |
| Corney | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Drigg and Garleton | Joint Scheme with Seascale. | Ample. | Good. | Nil. | | Nil. | |
| Estdale and Wasdale | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | (1) Water Supply Eskdale (2) Question of Sewerage |
| Irton | Joint Scheme with Seascale. | Deficiency due to corroded pipes. | Good. | Nil. | | Nil. | Water Supply to Santon. |
| Millom Rural..... | Partly from Millom U.D.C. Partly from Springs. | Ditto. | Good. | Nil. | | By Contract. | (1) Water Supply to Lady Hall. (2) Sewer for The Hall. |
| Muncaster | Private scheme by Muncaster Estate. | Ample. | Good. | Main Street of Village. | To Stream. | Nil. | (1) Collection of Refuse Public Conveniences for Trimmers. (2) Sanitary Accommodation to Public Hall. |
| Seascale | Joint Scheme with Drigg from Devoke. | Some difficulty during summer. | Good. | Practically the whole of Village. | Piped to low water. | By Contract (twice per week). | (1) Sewer for outside of Village. (2) Improvements to Water Supply. |
| Ulpha | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |
| Waberthwaite | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Water Supply for Newbiggin. |
| Whicham | Springs on Fell. | Ample. | Good. | Part of Silecroft Village. | Piped to stream. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Whitbeck | No public supply. | | | Nil. | | Nil. | Nil. |

TABLE II.

| Parish. | No. of New Houses. | Unit Dwelling Houses. | | | | Remedy of Defects without formal notice. | | | | Action under Statutory Powers. | | | | Proceedings under P.H.A. | | Closing Order. | W.C.'s. | Privies. |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|--|------|------|------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------|------|----------------|---------|----------|
| | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BIRKER AND AUSTHWAITE .. | Nil. | 2 | Nil. | Nil. | 2 | 2 | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | 1 | 2 | Nil | 2 | 12 |
| BOOTLE | 2 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 3 | ," | ," | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 89 | 123 | — |
| CORNEY..... | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | 37 |
| DRIGG AND CARLETON | 1 | 23 | 9 | ," | 7 | 7 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 53 | 74 |
| ESKDALE AND WASDALE | ," | 23 | 4 | ," | 14 | 14 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 37 | 61 |
| IRTON..... | ," | 4 | 4 | ," | 7 | 7 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 32 | 81 |
| MILLOM RURAL | 1 | 62 | 17 | ," | 36 | 41 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 4 | 4 | 4 | ," | 41 | 271 | — |
| MUNCASTER | ," | 31 | 8 | ," | 18 | 18 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | ," | 61 | 98 | — |
| SEASCALE | 3 | 75 | 16 | ," | 24 | 24 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 261 | 18 | — |
| ULPIA | Nil. | 2 | Nil. | ," | Nil. | 2 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 21 | 49 | — |
| WABERTHWAITE | ," | 9 | 3 | ," | 5 | 5 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 23 | 41 | — |
| WHICHAM | ," | 23 | Nil. | ," | 9 | 9 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 27 | 69 | — |
| WHITBECK..... | ," | 2 | ," | ," | 3 | 3 | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | ," | 3 | 27 | — |
| All without State assistance | 273 | 68 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | Total .. | 650 | 961 |

NOTES:—(1)—No. of Inspections made. (2)—No. of Inspections under H.A. (3)—No. found as to be unfit for occupation. (4)—No. found with defects.

TABLE III.

| PARISH. | POPULATION. | | | Private Families. | Separate Dwellings. | Rooms Occupied. | Rooms per Person. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Area. | 1911 | 1921 Males. Females. | | | | |
| TOTALS | 92.322 | 5664 | 2927 | 3493 | 6420 | 1324 | 1255 |
| BIRKER AND AUSTHWAITE | 8.245 | 62 | 30 | 23 | 53 | 12 | 12 |
| BOOTLE | 6.856 | 746 | 381 | 425 | 866 | 173 | 173 |
| CORNEY | 4.354 | 195 | 94 | 92 | 186 | 33 | 33 |
| DRIGG AND CARLETON | 3.827 | 447 | 209 | 237 | 446 | 104 | 103 |
| E SKDALE AND WASDALE | 17.421 | 358 | 193 | 264 | 457 | 82 | 82 |
| IRTON | 6.181 | 481 | 252 | 258 | 510 | 99 | 99 |
| MILLOM RURAL | 12.373 | 1200 | 599 | 640 | 1239 | 282 | 281 |
| MUNCASTER | 7.239 | 529 | 268 | 262 | 530 | 122 | 121 |
| SEASCALE | 1.441 | 699 | 380 | 764 | 1144 | 201 | 139 |
| ULPHA | 13.090 | 208 | 116 | 115 | 231 | 56 | 56 |
| WABERTHWAITE | 1.850 | 194 | 141 | 138 | 279 | 54 | 53 |
| WHICHAM | 4.909 | 391 | 193 | 205 | 398 | 83 | 80 |
| WHICHAM | 4.536 | 154 | 71 | 70 | 141 | 23 | 23 |

